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American Government and Politics. By Charles A. Beard, Associate Professor of Politics in Columbia University. (New York, The Macmillan Company, 1910, pp. viii, 772.) With his own untiring industry, and with the earnest co-operation of almost a dozen of his colleagues and friends, Professor Beard has very capably accomplished his purpose of a compilation from "the best authorities of recent times" for giving an exposition of our public life. For the enormous masses of facts and figures he has gathered, he has relied on secondary aids, as it would have been physically impossible to go to the original sources himself, and unnecessary to do so as he has chosen the safest guides, such as Wilson, Goodnow, Moore, Reinsch, Foster, Bryce, Cooley, and others. He has been impartial, rarely injecting his own views into the text, so no one need look here for striking comments or for innovating suggestions. Occasionally he inclines very gently from his balance as when he condemns our complicated system of officers and elections.

Although "designed for college students", it is rather hard to see how the book can be very useful pedagogically. It is crowded with too many details to serve as a continuous text-book, while many of the laws and statistics are too quickly superseded for the volume to be satisfactory as a reference repository for more than a brief period. For the latter object, too, the index should be much longer. In spite of the author's care there are also some shortcomings of statement: "water carriage" (p. 415) in this country is not "much cheaper than transportation by rail" except for a few heavy, bulky articles. The two meanings of "impeachment" in the United States Constitution are not sufficiently contrasted (p. 264). In many cases he has failed to state how statutes have been modified or even nullified by the courts. The law limiting hours of labor (p. 734) for women is a case in point, being both in force and not in force at present in this land. But for a rapid summary of past conditions and for a flash-light picture of the present chaos of our governmental machinery, the work is unsurpassed.

COLYER MERIWETHER.

A History of the United States for Schools. By S. E. Forman. (New York, The Century Company, 1910, pp. xiii, 419, lxxi.) Mr. Forman has the rare courage of breaking away from routine so as to give us a volume developing, in the main, one conception. Instead of trying to summarize all our past, he presents us as an expanding organism germinating on the Atlantic and spreading westward to the Philippines. He attempts to set out in proper perspective the chief steps in our progress. His pages teem with those forms and results of action that make for growth, industrial, social, intellectual, not the details of military campaigns. Of his forty-five chapters, nearly every heading carries the idea of vivid human movement. For arousing the interest of his audience, young people in school, no purpose could be wiser for that age. From the pedagogical standpoint they are also furnished a thread on which to string the pearls they find in their journey. Start-